(c) if so, the reaction for such a drastic decline in issuing visas to Indians; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the issuance of H-1B visas to our IT professionals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (d) The requisite details are as follows:

Fiscal Years (October-September)	H-1B Visas issued to Indian Nationals
1997-1998	40,246
1998-1999	55,062
1999-2000	61,530
2000-2001	74,078
2001-2002	44,012
2002-2003 (October 1 to April 30)	21,401

There was an overall decline in the issue of H-1 B visas globally from U.S. fiscal year 2001-02 due to a slowdown in the U.S. Information Technology industry, which resulted in the reduced demand for I.T. professionals in the United States. Indian nationals have remained, however, the largest recipients of H-1B visas.

Terrorist training camps in PoK

†2011. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any list of the terrorist training camps, being operated in PoK, has been handed over the Bush administration by the Deputy Prime Minister during his recent visit to America; and

(b) if so, the reaction of America and Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.